

67th LEGISLATURE—REGULAR SESSION

**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS—WATER DISTRICTS AND CONSERVATION AND RECLAMATION DISTRICTS—GOVERNING BOARDS—TERMS**

H. J. R. No. 77

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide terms not to exceed four years for members of governing boards of certain water districts and conservation and reclamation districts.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

Section 1. That Article XVI, Section 30, of the Texas Constitution be amended to read as follows:

Sec. 30. (a) The duration of all offices not fixed by this Constitution shall never exceed two years.

(b) When a Railroad Commission is created by law it shall be composed of three Commissioners who shall be elected by the people at a general election for State officers, and their terms of office shall be six years. Railroad Commissioners first elected after this amendment goes into effect shall hold office as follows: One shall serve two years, and one four years, and one six years; their terms to be decided by lot immediately after they shall have qualified. And one Railroad Commissioner shall be elected every two years thereafter. In case of vacancy in said office the Governor of the State shall fill said vacancy by appointment until the next general election:

(c) The Legislature may provide that members of the governing board of a district or authority created by authority of Article III, Section 52(b) (1) or (2), or Article XVI, Section 59, of this Constitution serve terms not to exceed four years.

Sec. 2. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held on November 2, 1982. The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide terms not to exceed four years for members of governing boards of certain water districts and conservation and reclamation districts."

Passed by the House on May 19, 1981: Yeas 135, Nays 2, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 30, 1981: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Approved June 16, 1981.

Filed with the Secretary of State, June 16, 1981.

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**PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS—TAXATION—POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS—HOMESTEADS—RELIEF**

H. J. R. No. 81

Proposing a constitutional amendment to authorize certain property tax relief for owners of residence homesteads and to change certain property tax administrative procedures.

*Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:*

Section 1. That Article VIII, Section 1-b, of the Texas Constitution be amended by adding Subsections (e) and (e-1) to read as follows:

## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

(e) The governing body of a political subdivision may exempt from ad valorem taxation a percentage of the market value of the residence homestead of a married or unmarried adult, including one living alone. The percentage may not exceed forty percent (40%) for the years 1982 through 1984, thirty percent (30%) for the years 1985 through 1987, and twenty percent (20%) in 1988 and each subsequent year. However, the amount of an exemption authorized pursuant to this subsection may not be less than Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) unless the legislature by general law prescribes other monetary restrictions on the amount of the exemption. An eligible adult is entitled to receive other applicable exemptions provided by law. Where ad valorem tax has previously been pledged for the payment of debt, the governing body of a political subdivision may continue to levy and collect the tax against the value of the homesteads exempted under this subsection until the debt is discharged if the cessation of the levy would impair the obligation of the contract by which the debt was created. The legislature by general law may prescribe procedures for the administration of residence homestead exemptions.

(e-1) Subsection (e) of this section takes effect January 1, 1982. This subsection expires January 2, 1982.

Sec. 2. Article VIII, Section 21, Subsection (c), of the Texas Constitution is amended to read as follows:

(c) The legislature by general law shall require that, subject to reasonable exceptions, a property owner be given notice of a revaluation of his property and a reasonable estimate of the amount of taxes that would be imposed on his property if the total amount of property taxes for the subdivision were not increased according to any law enacted pursuant to Subsection (a) of this section. The notice must be given before the procedures required in Subsection (a) are instituted.

Sec. 3. This proposed constitutional amendment shall be submitted to the voters at an election to be held November 3, 1981. The ballot shall be printed to provide for voting for or against the proposition: "The constitutional amendment authorizing a political subdivision to provide property tax relief for owners of residence homesteads and changing certain property tax administrative procedures."

Passed by the House on May 19, 1981: Yeas 133, Nays 13, 1 present, not voting; House concurred in Senate amendments to H. J. R. No. 81 on June 1, 1981: Yeas 133, Nays 4, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on June 1, 1981: Yeas 31, Nays 0. Approved June 16, 1981.

Filed with the Secretary of State, June 16, 1981.